

Message Text

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ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-13 AGR-03 NSCE-00 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 COME-00 STR-01

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R 120619Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9103

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12678

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, RP

SUBJECT: SUGAR IMPORT QUOTAS

REF: STATE 216291

1. SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE, I HAVE BEEN PERPLEXED BY THE CASUAL AND APPARENTLY UNCOORDINATED MANNER IN WHICH THE U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE HANDLES THE MATTER OF SUGAR IMPORT QUOTAS. WHENEVER THERE IS A CHANGE MADE IN THE ALLOCATION OF IMPORTS AFFECTING THE PHILIPPINES, I INVARIABLY HAVE LEARNED ABOUT IT FROM THE NEWSPAPERS AFTER THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AND ANNOUNCED BY AGRICULTURE IN WASHINGTON.

2. BECAUSE THESE DECISIONS HAVE FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS, I ASKED MY AGRICULTURE ATTACHE TO REQUEST HIS DEPARTMENT TO COORDINATE THESE MATTERS IN ADVANCE WITH THE DEPT. OF STATE. HE RECEIVED A POLITE AND RESPONSIVE REPLY FROM AGRICULTURE ASSURING HIM THAT THIS COORDINATION WOULD BE DONE.

3. THE DAY AFTER I WAS SHOWN THAT REPLY, I READ IN THE LOCAL PRESS THAT AGRICULTURE HAD ANNOUNCED ITS 1974
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ALLOCATIONS, PROVIDING A SUBSTANTION INCREASE TO THE

PHILIPPINES. THIS NEWS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY A CABLE FROM THE DEPT. ON NOVEMBER 10, WE RECEIVED REFTEL ADVISING THAT NEW 1973 ALLOCATIONS HAD BEEN MADE (AGAIN INCREASING THE PHILIPPINES SHARE) AND REPORTING THAT AGRICULTURE HAD ANNOUNCED THIS FACT ON NOVEMBER 9.

4. ON TOP OF ALL THIS, THE LOCAL PRESS OVER THIS PAST WEEKEND HAS BEEN FULL OF A STORY QUOTING ONE ARTHUR B. CALCAGNINI OF THE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE TO THE EFFECT THAT AGRICULTURE "THINKS" THE SUGAR QUOTA SYSTEM SHOULD BE SCRAPPED. THIS GEM HAS BEEN RAPIDLY FOLLOWED BY QUOTES FROM CONGRESSMAN POAGUE TAKING SHARP EXCEPTION TO THE AGRICULTURE STATEMENT.

5. I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THE SUGAR CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES TO MEET WITH THEM AND GIVE SOME EXPLANATION OF THESE CONFUSING REPORTS. BECAUSE I HAVE NO RPT NO GUIDANCE, I HAVE DEMURRED, AND ASKED TO HAVE THE MEETING SCHEDULED SOME TIME IN DECEMBER, WHEN I HOPE TO BE BETTER INFORMED.

6. IT SEEMS TO ME HIGH TIME THAT THE BUREAUCRATIC BARONS IN AGRICULTURE BE BROUGHT TO SOME SORT OF INTERDEPARTMENTAL RUNNYMEDE AND INFORMED THAT THEIR PUBLIC MUSINGS AND PRIVATE DECISIONS HAVE AN IMPACT ON FOREIGN POLICY. THEY SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (WITH WHICH THEY SEEM LOOSELY ASSOCIATED) IS CONDUCTING SENSITIVE ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES IN WHICH THE MATTER OF U.S. SUGAR IMPORTS WILL PLAY A CONSIDERABLE PART. THEY SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE FOREIGN POLICY MECHANISM CLOSELY ENOUGH SO THAT OUR LARGER NATIONAL INTERESTS WILL BE ASSERTED IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM TO MAKE AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATED WITH FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF SUGAR IMPORTS;

(B) DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO U.S. SUGAR POLICY, WHICH I CAN HAVE IN MY HANDS BY DECEMBER 1 FOR USE WITH THE SUGAR CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR GENERAL UTILITY IN OUR AER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.
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